

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL,**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**  
**ONLINE AT 7.33PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Vice-Chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Selley, Mr J Paxton, Mr N Day, Mr A Channon, Mrs V Jones, Mr J Roberts and Mr S Laycock

In attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk) and Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

**20/516 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mr L Davison-Williams

**20/517 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the procedures regarding declaration of interests. There were none.

**20/518 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH STRATEGIC LEISURE PRIORITIES IN VIEW OF S106 'WISH LIST'**

Further to the discussions held at the Planning Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January, members provided their key priorities to the Clerk. These were collated and the list provided ahead of the meeting to all members. Also, Councillor Roberts provided some additional details from Central Beds Council website regarding the S106 process and previous projects.

It was acknowledged that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee should be reformed with a leader from the Parish Council in due course.

In the meantime, ahead of any planning applications being submitted to Central Beds Council, it was agreed that the Parish Council should formulate a list of its key priorities from any S106 monies to mitigate the impact of the proposed new development and meet the needs of the Village.

Councillor Roberts and the Clerk held an online meeting with the Village Hall Committee Chairman and Treasurer last week to discuss their building needs. After a review of the suggestions for a Community Hub, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** to include the need for improved facilities at the Village Hall via expansion or renovation, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Jones left the meeting at 7.48pm

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the expansion of the Burial Ground facility, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** improvements to the Library facility provision, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The lack of parking in the centre of the Village was acknowledged. This will only get worse with any additional housing built on the outskirts of the Village. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of additional parking on a self-sustaining basis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts **with 5 in favour and 3 against**.

The provision of allotments is a legal requirement and guidelines state 20 plots (10 pole size) per 1000 houses. There is capacity for additional plots on the current site, subject to clearance and drainage works. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the provision of additional allotments, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Jones re-joined the meeting at 8.22pm

The improvement of facilities for the youths of the Village was acknowledged. After discussion, Councillor Gardner **PROPOSED** the provision of a BMX trail on any new development, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the need to increase the quantity and range of available play equipment for all ages in either the existing or new Village play area facilities. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Selley outlined the need for some sort of all-weather sports pitch to enhance the existing facilities and provide opportunities for other sports to be played all year round to appeal to a wider range of residents and not just football.

**ACTION - The Clerk was requested to investigate the position regarding Council Tax Business rates on open pitches.**

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** a MUGA facility be provided with easy access for the whole Village, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Further to earlier discussions regarding a Community Hub facility, Councillor Day **PROPOSED** an indoor sports facility, including gym equipment, be provided, **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of more inclusive and accessible outdoor fitness equipment to be made available on any new development, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had spoken to the Chairman of the Tennis Club about their facilities. After discussion, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the additional provision of outdoor or indoor tennis facilities, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Road safety improvements were discussed but these will be incorporated within the Traffic Management Strategy for the Village.

Members discussed the merits of providing a footbridge over the A6 to link the industrial estate and retail areas with the Village. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of a footpath over the A6, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas **with 2 in favour and 7 against** – this was rejected.

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of a segregated cycle path to improve access from the potential new development and the Village, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton **with 6 in favour and 3 abstentions**.

Suggestions to widen the footpath on Manor Road for safer access to Arnold Academy will be discussed further by the Highways and Environment Committee.

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of a cycleway to link the Village with Sharpenhoe. This was not seconded.

As requested at the Planning Committee meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Clerk contacted the Doctors Surgery regarding a potential need for expansion. No response has yet been received. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the expansion of the Doctors Surgery, subject to further information, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of guided walks and markers around the surrounding area of the potential new development, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The provision of public toilets in the centre of the Village were discussed. After debate, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the provision of public toilets in the Village, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton **with 2 in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention** – this was rejected.

**ACTION – Council to investigate the merits of a Community Toilet Scheme once businesses reopen after the Pandemic.**

**ACTION – Clerk to summarise the above decisions into a revised S106 ‘Wish List’ and Parish Strategic Leisure Priorities schedule for adoption at Full Council.**

Councillor Paxton left the meeting at 10.19pm

**20/519 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE RESPONSE TO THE LAND AGENTS BRIEFING REGARDING PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO THE EAST OF THE VILLAGE**

Following the discussion held at the Planning Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Clerk provided a summary of the key issues of the scheme to be referred to the potential Developers for further clarification ahead of the Briefing meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the feedback as summarised, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Members debated the best way to share the Parish Council’s proposed strategy with residents given the current restrictions with public meetings. It was suggested a newsletter to each household should be considered. This will be discussed further at the Full Council meeting in March.

**20/520 ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

**I certify these minutes are a true and correct record of the Parish Council Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

**Dated this the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**COUNCILLOR B THOMAS  
VICE-CHAIRMAN**